

**NC Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**DoubleTree Hotel
1707 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC**

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Committee Members Attending:

Amie Brendle, James Bowman, Anna Cunningham, Tyehimba Hunt-Harrison, F. Michael Maybee, Nancy Moore, Roger Moore, Beverly Morrow, Ann Shaw, Peggy Terhune, Don Trobaugh, Linda Warden, Marian Spencer, Stephanie Tyson

Excused Absences:

Kevin Oliver, Greg Olley

Division Staff:

Jim Jarrard, W. Denise Baker, Marta T. Hester, Lauren Scott

Call to Order:

The Advisory Committee was called to order by Anna Cunningham, Advisory Committee Chairperson at 9:30 am. Ms. Cunningham reviewed the excused absences, issued the ethics reminder, and paused for a moment of reflection. She announced an agenda change: Lisa Jackson, Waiver Contract Manager, NC Division of Medical Assistance, will not be attending the meeting to discuss care coordination. Following the announcement regarding Ms. Jackson's schedule, there was discussion regarding how agency staff prioritize their speaking engagements when invited by the Commission; the time the committee was notified Ms. Jackson would not be attending the meeting; and whether the committee's questions sent in advance of the meeting to Ms. Jackson will receive a written response. Ms. Cunningham announced if Ms. Jackson participates in a future conference call, all committee members are invited to participate also.

Upon motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the January 23, 2014, Advisory Committee meeting.

Workgroup Breakout Sessions:

The Rights and Quality MHDDSA Services Work Group and Housing and Infrastructure (formerly the Community Infrastructure and Public Services Work Group) each met in their respective work groups.

Review Updated Commission Working Matrix Model, Next Steps and Wrap Up:

Rights and Quality MHDDSA Work Group:

Dr. Tyehimba Hunt-Harrison, Chairperson, Rights and Quality MHDDSA Services Work Group, disseminated copies of a draft letter to Dr. Greg Olley, Chairman, Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, regarding the results of surveys the work group received from recipients of care, multiple provider disciplines, and agency administrators. The Work Group received several comments and suggestions from the Advisory Committee which are listed below:

- Peggy Terhune recommended the development of the Health Information Exchange be added to the 3rd bullet of the letter (i.e., *Increase incentives to providers to exchange information and communicate effectively with other providers and between agencies*). She also mentioned that an accountability measure should be added to clarify they are just not referring to Medicaid.

- Don Trobaugh proposed adding a paragraph to the letter to request feedback to advise the Advisory Committee of a time table of implementation of the projects and dates and the individuals responsible to allow the committee to stay abreast of the progress made
- Dr. Hunt-Harrison informed the committee the purpose of the letter is to present the survey results and she wants to keep it general and not too proscriptive.
- There was also discussion among the members regarding the interpretation of the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Linda Warden asked to see copies of both the original and edited versions of letter.
- W. Denise Baker, Division Affairs Team Leader, Operations Support Section, NC DMH/DD/SAS, advised there should be two letters: one from the Advisory Committee to the Commission and a second written on behalf of Dr. Olley to the targeted audience.

Linda Warden made the motion to accept the letter with edits and Beverly Morrow seconded with the unanimous approval by the Advisory Committee.

The edits are listed below in bold type:

- Provide qualified ***and competent*** case managers/care coordinators to actively and consistently assist with integrating the many aspects of mental healthcare, developmental disability services, and substance abuse services.
- Increase incentives to ***and the accountability*** of providers to exchange information and communicate effectively with other providers, between agencies ***and consumers and families***.
- ***Under 3rd bullet (either add to it or list separately) – to expedite the implementation of the Health Information Exchange. It needs to be secure in order to ensure confidentiality.***
- Provide ongoing training of providers/agencies ***and care coordinators*** regarding the necessity of healthcare information exchanges to ***consumers and families. Also, add that this is necessary regardless of funding.***
- ***A paragraph will also be added at the end of the letter regarding requesting updates, formulating solutions, etc., to be added by Dr. Hunt-Harrison.***

Dr. Hunt-Harrison advised the Advisory Committee that the Rights and Quality MHDDSA Services Work Group submitted questions in advance on case management to the invited speaker. She stated that although the invited speaker will be coming to a later meeting to discuss this issue, the primary focus of the work group is still communication.

Housing and Infrastructure Work Group:

Ms. Cunningham informed the committee of the name change of the work group on Community Infrastructure and Public Services to Housing and Infrastructure. The work group's next steps are to review the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ruling on Community Living to examine needed features and existing barriers and to focus on putting together an informational powerpoint presentation to share findings in visual format along with any recommendations in a letter to Secretary Wos and the NC General Assembly, as deemed appropriate. There were several comments among the group members which discussed employment and the potential loss of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Benefits Counselors in the state. The work group will also have a telephone conference call and Ms. Cunningham asked if others outside of the members are interested in participating in the call, to let her know.

Ms. Cunningham asked if there were any new updates to the Commission Working Matrix Model. She advised information will be added in the near future by the Housing and Infrastructure Work Group. She also added that Dr. Terhune will be providing information on a budget for the group home standards.

Public Comments:

Dr. Marian Spencer requested additional information regarding the surveys disseminated by the Rights and Quality MHDDSA Services Work Group. Ms Cunningham advised they were created by Survey Monkey for the purpose of communication. Dr. Hunt-Harrison said the work group members created the questions and identified the recipients of the survey. Dr. Spencer asked about the state-wide representation. Dr Hunt-Harrison advised she wants to see more of a response from the substance abuse community in the future.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.